

PATENT SPECIFICATION



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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Improvements in Tobacco and Methods of Treating the Same

We, AMERICAN MACHINE & FOUNDRY COMPANY, a corporation organised and existing under the laws of the State of New Jersey, of 5520, Second Avenue, Brooklyn, City and State of New York, United States of America, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to an improved method of preparing blended or flavored tobacco, to a tobacco blending or flavoring coating composition used therein, and to the improved blended or flavored tobacco produced thereby.

In the blending or flavoring of tobacco it is customary to mix together in the proper proportions the various kinds of tobacco to obtain the desired blend or flavored mixture, and difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the desired uniform and intimate intermixture or association with all of the main body of tobacco of the blending or flavoring tobacco.

The object of the invention is to provide a method of blending or flavoring which results in or ensures with certainty an intimate association of the blending or flavoring tobacco with all parts of the main body of tobacco with which it is to be associated, and in which the blending or flavoring tobacco becomes so effectively bound to all parts of the main body of tobacco as in effect to form an integral part of the tobacco structure, thereby imparting a longer lasting aroma, taste or flavor to the tobacco treated, which will be available at the time of smoking or other use of the tobacco.

The invention consists in the method of incorporating blending or flavoring tobacco with a main body of tobacco, which comprises the reduction of the blending or flavoring tobacco to the form of very fine or colloidal sized particles and the formation of a solution slurry or colloidal dispersion of said particles in water and applying said solution, slurry or dispersion in a uniform manner to the tobacco of said main body, to form a

coating thereon.

The invention also consists in a tobacco blending or flavoring coating composition consisting of a solution or sol containing finely divided or colloidal sized particles of a blending or flavoring tobacco.

The invention further consists in blended or flavored tobacco, comprising a quantity of one or more kinds of tobacco, in the form of whole leaves or large leaf portions, cut or broken up tobacco, or shredded tobacco, provided on one or more or all surfaces thereof with a coherent coating of finely divided or colloiddally bound blending or flavoring tobacco.

In the accompanying drawings,

Figure 1 is a schematic view illustrating the successive steps of a preferred method of practicing the invention; and

Figure 2 is a greatly enlarged diagrammatic cross-sectional view of a piece or shred of tobacco coated with blending and/or flavoring material in accordance with the invention.

According to well-established practice, most tobaccos prepared for formation into cigarettes, cigars and related smoking articles and for chewing are the result of the association of several different kinds or types of tobacco in order to provide a suitable blend, which characterizes a particular product and makes it sought after by the consuming public. These blends are usually trade secrets with the manufacturers, and represent considerable experimentation and experience. Thus each type of smoking or other kind of processed tobacco requires special treatment in order to prepare it in its ultimate form, and in preparing all or practically all kinds, regardless of the final use, the matter of blending and/or flavoring is of extreme importance.

Cigar tobacco, and more especially cigar filler tobacco also must undergo several processing steps before it is ready for manufacture into cigars. A typical process includes the steps of moistening the hands of tobacco leaves, shaking out excess moisture, and allowing the moisture treated hands to stand butt ends down for about twenty-four hours, after which the

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tobacco is sweated, stemmed and stored to obtain the best association of the leaves. This is done because several grades or types of tobaccos are used or blended to make a typical cigar filler. Many cigars now made contain a small proportion of Cuban, Porto Rico, Havana or other kinds of blending or flavoring tobacco, which adds to the quality of the cigars and to the enjoyment of smokers. The blending tobacco leaves, such as Havana, are usually added to the other tobacco leaves at the time the cigar fillers are being made in the case of long filler cigars. In the case of short filler cigars the blending tobaccos can be mixed with the other tobacco in proper proportions before it is made into cigar fillers or bunches.

The prior methods are not always entirely satisfactory because of the relative inability to always obtain uniform association with the other tobaccos of the several blending or flavoring tobaccos, especially in cases where relatively small quantities of blending or flavoring tobaccos are used. More especially is this so when certain of the more difficult to obtain tobaccos form a part of the so-called Eastern or Turkish tobaccos used in blending, as in the case of cigarette manufacture. For instance, a tobacco such as Latakia may constitute say, 1 or 2 per cent. of the entire weight of cigarette tobacco, that is, there may be one or two pounds of Latakia per one-hundred pounds of tobacco being prepared for cigarette manufacture. Under the prior practices where small quantities of blending tobaccos are used there is a possibility that certain of the blending tobaccos will not be associated properly with the main tobacco mass, and the desired effect will not be obtained if the blending tobacco is not uniformly distributed in the main bulk of tobacco being processed. It may so happen that the small quantity of Latakia or other blending or flavoring tobacco mixed with a given batch of cigarette tobacco will not be properly mixed and will only be present as a blending medium in the first part of a batch of cigarettes formed from a given charge of tobacco placed in the cigarette making machine. So also in cigars it may happen that the Havana or other blending or flavoring tobacco may not be properly located in the filler due to faulty feeding by the cigar maker or improper mixing of the tobaccos, in which case the desired effect will not be obtained and some of the cigars produced will not measure up to standard.

In accordance with the present invention, the blending or flavoring tobaccos to be added to or incorporated in the main

body or mass of tobacco, are more effectively and more uniformly associated therewith by forming said blending or flavoring tobaccos and water into a solution, slurry or dispersion of finely divided tobacco particles, and applying said solution, slurry or dispersion by spraying or otherwise to said main body or mass of tobacco, so that all or substantially all parts of said mass are provided with coatings containing the finely divided particles of the blending or flavoring tobacco.

The blending or flavoring solution or slurry can be prepared by reducing or grinding the selected tobacco material in 80 or later mixing them with water, the quantity of material which is to be used, either for the purpose of blending or flavoring or both, being selected depending upon the particular product to be prepared. The tobacco selected may be of the best grades obtainable, although materials heretofore considered as waste or by-products of other manufacturing operations, such as tobacco dust or scrap, 90 can be used satisfactorily, thereby making possible a more efficient use of tobacco with benefits to both growers and manufacturers.

The blending or flavoring tobacco may be first reduced to a finely divided condition by a dry grinding operation and then mixed with water, to form the slurry, or it may be reduced by a wet grinding operation in water to form the slurry, or it may be subjected first to dry grinding and then to wet grinding operations.

When the tobacco is dry ground, a selected quantity of tobacco is preferably dried to remove most of the moisture contained therein, after which, if it is in the form of leaves or large leaf portions, it is broken up into small pieces in any suitable manner. It has been found that dry grinding proceeds faster and more satisfactorily when the moisture content of the tobacco is reduced below about five per cent. Any suitable device may be employed for reducing the dried broken up tobacco to finely divided condition. For instance, the tobacco may be placed in a ball mill and ground to colloidal, or substantially colloidal size, or to a fineness such that it is easily dispersible in 120 water. This method of grinding may however, be relatively slow, the amount of time consumed varying according to the quantity of tobacco selected for grinding, the size of the mill and the balls or pebbles used therein, and the speed of operation of the mill. For best results the charge should not exceed the volume of voids in the mill. The amount of time required is also a function 130

of the size and condition of the tobacco before it is placed in the mill. For instance, if the material being comminuted is of small particle size at the
5 outset, less time will be required than if the material is in the form of broken up leaves and stems.

If more rapid reduction or grinding is preferred, a plate or disk type colloidal
10 mill may be used, in which case a selected quantity of tobacco can be reduced advantageously to extremely fine size in a matter of minutes.

The desired slurry or colloidal suspension may then be produced by mixing
15 together a selected quantity of the finely ground or colloidal sized tobacco and water in a ratio of say 1:6 to 1:8, parts by weight, or in other suitable proportions. An intimate mixture or suspension
20 can be obtained by mixing the materials together mechanically in any suitable form of mixing apparatus, and if desired the tobacco particles may be more
25 thoroughly dispersed throughout the water by agitating with steam.

If the tobacco is to be reduced by wet grinding, a selected quantity thereof is
30 if necessary broken up into small size in order to expedite its reduction, and is then placed in a grinding device, such as a ball mill, and water is added thereto to establish a suitable ratio, say of 1:8 parts
35 by weight, depending upon the type of tobacco. The mixture is ground for a period sufficient to reduce the tobacco material to an extremely fine size, wherein all or at least the greater part of the tobacco particles are of colloidal size. It
40 has been found that the grinding time may vary over a considerable range, but for example, when the mixture is ground for a period ranging between six and eight hours in a $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallon ball mill,
45 using $\frac{1}{2}$ inch flint balls and rotated at 45-50 revolutions per minute, advantageous results are obtained.

If the tobacco is to be reduced by both dry and wet grinding operations, a
50 selected quantity of tobacco is preferably first dried and if necessary broken up, and is then dry ground either in a disk type colloidal mill rapidly in a few minutes, or more slowly, say for about
55 three hours, in a ball mill, as described above. When the tobacco has been reduced to a proper size, it is introduced into a second grinding device, such as a ball mill, or is left in the first mill, and
60 is mixed with a suitable quantity of water in order to prepare it for the wet or final grinding.

In the wet grinding operations above referred to, as in the case of dry grinding,
65 the period of grinding is dependent to the

same extent upon the quantity of material being ground, as represented by the mixture of water and pulverized tobacco, the capacity of the ball mill, if a ball mill is selected as the grinding mechanism, the
70 size of the balls used therein, and the speed of operation of the mill. A ball mill is a satisfactory device to use in carrying out this wet grinding operation, and with a $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallon mill containing 800
75 cubic centimeters of water and 100 grams of tobacco constituting the wet grind mixture, the time required to reduce the tobacco to fine divided particles or substantially to a colloidal state ranges between one and ten hours. An average
80 time of six hours has proven to be advantageous.

The result of mixing or grinding the tobacco in accordance with any of the
85 methods above mentioned, in water, is a slurry, solution or suspension containing finely divided or colloidal tobacco, or a tobacco sol. The product may be a relatively thick viscous liquid of about the
90 viscosity of heavy cream, although the viscosity will vary depending upon the type of tobacco used and the ratio of tobacco to water, and if necessary for proper application of the slurry or suspension
95 to tobacco to be treated, as later described, the slurry can be diluted with more water.

The colloiddally bound tobacco solution or slurry thus produced preferably should
100 be applied to the tobacco to be treated as soon as possible after being produced, because it has been found that it tends readily to ferment if allowed to stand for several hours, say three or four hours,
105 unless refrigerated. The term "colloiddally bound tobacco" is used herein to indicate that the tobacco particles are of colloidal size and are held or "bound" within the solution in the manner of a
110 colloidal dispersion.

The colloiddally bound tobacco solution or slurry can be applied to the tobacco to be treated as soon as the grinding operation is completed, or it can be subjected
115 to heat at atmospheric pressure or to greater heat at elevated pressure, before being so applied. In the latter case, the solution or slurry may be subjected to the heat treatment in an autoclave or
120 other apparatus for a period of time sufficient to hydrate and swell the particles of tobacco until substantially a hydrosol is formed, especially insofar as the finest or colloidal particles are concerned.
125 During the time of hydration by which is meant the physical action of the tobacco particles in absorbing water, some hydrolysis takes place and it is from this action that it is believed that the heat
130

accelerates the hydration of the tobacco particles and also accelerates the limited amount of hydrolysis of such materials contained in tobacco as glucosides, there-
 5 by increasing the aroma of the tobacco and greatly enhancing its desirability for use in the treatment of other tobacco.

The tobacco may be subjected to the heat treatment either before the tobacco
 10 is converted into a slurry or after. In the latter case, as an example of the heat, time and pressures evolved, a quantity of the slurry or solution is placed in a pressure cooker or the like and cooked therein
 15 at a pressure of about fifteen pounds per square inch for a period of about three hours at about 250° F. water vapor temperature. Other pressures and cooking
 20 periods can of course be used advantageously. For instance, if the pressure is increased then the desired result is effected in a shorter time. Also, if desired the
 25 solution or slurry can be cooked at normal atmospheric pressure by heating in a reaction flask connected to a reflux condenser for about five hours and satisfactory
 30 results are obtained. During the heat treatment of the slurry or solution, it is advantageous to agitate the same as by shaking or stirring, or in any other suitable
 35 manner, such as bubbling live steam into the slurry or suspension, because this breaks up particles tending to conglomerate and assists in the complete
 40 hydration of the individual particles of tobacco.

ment of the tobacco to be the colloiddally bound or al tobacco can be effected in , such for example, as by leaves or leaf portions of the slurry or suspension, or latter upon the tobacco.

slurry or sol, which is to shredded or other forms of , can be made in many ways, such
 45 for instance, as from one kind of flavoring or blending tobacco alone, or from suitable combinations of different kinds of
 50 tobaccos, and essential oils as flavouring agents can be added in quantities deemed necessary to obtain a desired result, such as enhancing the aroma and taste accord-
 55 ing to the specific blend being formed.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1
 60 illustrates schematically the several steps of a preferred manner of carrying out the method of the invention. 1 represents a quantity of blending tobacco which is to
 65 be added to or blended with a given quantity of other tobacco. The tobacco 1 is converted into a solution slurry or sol, in water, in any of the ways described above, for example, by grinding in a suitable
 70 grinding device indicated at 2 to form a

slurry or sol of colloiddally bound tobacco indicated at 3, in which all or a substan-
 75 tial portion of the blending tobacco is reduced to colloidal size, after which the solution or sol is applied to the batch of 70 tobacco to be treated in any suitable manner, as indicated at 4, for example, by spraying or dipping. Following this treatment the tobacco is dried as indi-
 80 cated at 5, to remove excess moisture. If 75 the treated tobacco is shredded cigarette tobacco, the moisture in all probability will be held between 10 and 12½ per cent., more or less. This, however, depends
 85 upon the kind of tobacco product to be 80 produced. The applying, spraying or dipping operation covers the surfaces of the tobacco being treated with a coating
 90 of the slurry and the effect of drying the slurry coated tobacco is to form a thin 85 film or gel like coating on the exterior surface or surfaces of substantially the
 95 entire quantity of the treated tobacco. It is also quite possible that some of the solution or slurry thus applied is absorbed 90 into the cells of the tobacco treated, and for all practical purposes the applied
 100 tobacco becomes an intergral part of the treated tobacco. It will be evident, therefore, that tobacco treated in the above 95 manner is quite different from tobacco to which has been applied ordinary powder, such as powdered tobacco mixed with
 105 water, in which when dried the powdered tobacco reverts to its original state and 100 thus becomes extremely objectionable in cigarettes, cigars and other smoking
 110 articles.

From this it follows that if a cigarette tobacco blend is being produced and the 105 blending tobacco 1 is composed of one or more of the blending tobaccos such as above referred to, with or without the addition of essential and flavoring agents, a very homogeneous blended cigarette 110 tobacco results since the blending or flavoring tobacco, which have been reduced to colloidal or substantially colloidal state, become actually bound to
 115 the main bulk of tobacco being treated because of the nature of the solution, slurry or sol applied and are distributed uniformly throughout the entire quantity
 120 of tobacco treated, in a most efficient manner, to provide a completely, uni-120 formly blended tobacco. After the moisture removing operation, the tobacco may be placed in storage or used in manu-
 125 facturing operations, as indicated at 6.

It will be seen that the present method 125 substantially eliminates bulking, an important step in prior blending methods, or at least diminishes the necessity there-
 130 for, provided the same percentages of blending and flavoring tobaccos are used 130

for a given quantity of tobacco being treated. This is due to the intimate association of the colloidal blending and flavoring tobaccos and the more efficient

- 5 use of such tobaccos due to their more intimate contact with and better distribution over the whole mass of tobacco being treated, so that in effect the flavor and aroma of the blending or flavoring tobaccos permeates the main mass of tobacco being treated almost as soon as the coating is applied thereto.

- 10 The quantity of blending or flavoring tobacco to be applied to a given quantity of tobacco undergoing treatment will vary according to the particular blend desired, and the types of tobacco used as blending or flavoring media.

- For example, a given blend for cigarette tobacco may contain about 90 per cent. of American tobaccos, including for example, Burley, Bright and other known kinds in desired quantities, with which is mixed about 10 per cent. of blending tobaccos, including Turkish, Latakia, and the like. Generally speaking, from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 pounds of Latakia, and in some cases more if desirable, can be used for each 100 pounds of tobacco to be treated.

- 20 If desired, the solution or slurry of colloidal tobacco or containing colloidal tobacco, can be made from all of the blending tobaccos and applied to the main mass of American tobaccos. Or a part of the blending tobacco, say the Turkish, can be mixed with the American tobacco, and another part, say the Latakia, can be formed into the blending solution or sol and sprayed upon or otherwise applied to the mixture of American and Turkish tobaccos, after which the treated tobacco is dried to reduce the moisture content to the desired degree, usually between 10 and 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., as indicated at 5 in Figure 1.

- 45 In some instances it may be desirable to form a solution or slurry of colloidal tobacco of one or more of the American tobaccos used in the formation of the blend, especially when one or more of such tobaccos is available in the form of tobacco dust or tobacco scrap, usually considered as waste or by-product material from other manufacturing operations and it is desired to utilize the same by incorporating it as an integral part of the tobacco to be blended. Such colloidal tobacco solution or slurry can be made, for example, from Burley, Bright or like tobaccos, usually up to about 20 per cent. by weight, and applied to the main bulk of tobacco being processed. In this case the main bulk of tobacco may contain a desired quantity of blending tobacco intermixed therewith in shreds or

cut up pieces depending upon the ultimate use, that is, whether it is to be used in cigarettes or as smoking tobacco or the like.

It is evident that the procedure 70 described makes possible the positive blending or incorporation of different kinds of aromatic and non-aromatic tobaccos, even though some of them are originally in a state usually considered 75 as waste or of little value, because of the manner in which they are converted into and used as a solution or slurry containing colloidal tobacco for coating and impregnating the main bulk of tobacco. If 80 for example a given shredded cigarette mixture is to contain 50 per cent. of one kind of tobacco and 40 per cent. of another kind, any desired percentage of other tobacco may be added as a slurry or 85 colloidal dispersion. This use of tobacco by-products and waste material, such as stems, dust, chips, and the like is made possible due to their conversion into a form which enables them to be bound in the 90 form of a gel-like film coating or by absorption or both to the tobacco being treated.

Figure 2 shows diagrammatically a cross sectional view of a shred of tobacco 95 T the outer surface of which is covered with a film or gel-like coating F containing colloidal blending or blending and flavoring or flavoring tobacco. Although an unbroken film is shown, it is likely 100 that in some instances the entire surface may not be completely covered. Due to the cellular structure of tobacco it is quite possible that some of the slurry will be absorbed by the tobacco to which it is 105 applied and the coating will not be entirely regular.

Some flavoring tobaccos can be formed separately into a sol or slurry and added to a solution or slurry of one or more 110 blending tobaccos and applied therewith to the tobacco to be treated, or said sol or slurry may be applied separately to the tobacco being treated before or after the application of the blending tobacco slurry 115 to the tobacco. When the batch of tobacco is first treated with one solution or slurry and then with another, it is advantageous after the first treatment to remove excess moisture, say to a moisture content 120 of between 10 and 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., before applying the second solution. In any case, when a relatively large quantity of a solution or slurry, is to be applied to a quantity of tobacco, it may be desirable 125 to make several successive applications thereof and to dry the treated tobacco after each application, in order to obtain the best distribution of the blending and/or flavoring materials so applied. 130

When essential oils as flavoring agents are used, they can be mixed with the blending slurry before it is applied to the batch of tobacco being treated, or can be sprayed thereon after the application of the blending solution.

While grinding in water has been referred to several times in connection with the preparation of the solutions or slurries, it will be understood that such solutions or slurries may be prepared in any suitable manner, such as hereinbefore set forth.

Any suitable means or mechanical apparatus may be employed for applying the solutions or slurries, for example, by dipping the tobacco leaves or leaf portions in the solution or spraying the same thereon, or in the case of cut or shredded tobacco, the solution may be sprayed onto the tobacco while it is being tumbled within a rotary drum or like device.

Under certain conditions it may be desirable to change the natural flavor of tobaccos in order to simulate a different kind of type. For instance, if Havana tobacco is formed into a slurry or sol and is applied to a batch of cigarette tobacco composed of American tobaccos, such as Burley or Bright, the result is a blended and flavored tobacco having the characteristic aroma of cigar tobacco. Satisfactory results are obtainable with from 2 to 10 per cent. of Havana tobacco per 100 pounds of tobacco to be so treated, depending upon the desired strength of Havana tobacco aroma desired. A larger proportion than 10 per cent. can be used if greater strength of aroma is desired.

Cigar tobacco can also be given characteristic aromas and flavoring by the addition of blending and flavoring tobaccos. Porto Rico tobacco, if sprayed with a solution or slurry of Havana tobacco, takes on a Havana tobacco aroma. In this case the Havana tobacco, usually in quantities constituting between 2 and 5 per cent. of the Porto Rico tobacco, is formed into a solution or slurry by any of the methods described hereinbefore and is applied to the surfaces of the tobacco to be treated, as by spraying, after which the treated tobacco is dried to remove excess moisture therefrom to a point not in excess of 14 or 15 per cent. moisture content and is stored or made into cigars. The actual quantity of Havana tobacco formed into a slurry or sol will depend upon the strength of Havana flavor sought for. So also any kind of cigar filler, binder or wrapper tobacco if treated in a similar manner will take on the characteristic flavor and aroma of the tobacco composing the slurry or sol applied thereto.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of our said invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, we declare that what we claim is:—

1. The method of incorporating blending or flavoring tobacco with a main body of tobacco, which comprises the reduction of the blending or flavoring tobacco to the form of very fine or colloidal sized particles and the formation of a solution, slurry or colloidal dispersion of said particles in water, and applying said solution, slurry or dispersion in a uniform manner to the tobacco of said main body, to form a coating thereon.

2. The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the main body of tobacco comprises a mixture of different kinds of tobaccos.

3. The method as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the blending or flavoring tobacco comprises a mixture of different kinds of tobaccos.

4. The method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein a part only of the total quantity of the blending or flavoring tobacco is formed into said solution, slurry or colloidal dispersion, the remainder being mixed with the main body of tobacco and the solution, slurry or dispersion being applied to the mixed tobacco.

5. The method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the blending or flavoring tobacco comprises up to twenty per cent., and preferably between one half of one per cent., and ten per cent. of a given quantity of blended tobacco to be produced.

6. The method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein separate solutions, slurries or colloidal dispersions of finely divided or colloidal sized particles of different blending and/or flavoring tobaccos are formed and are applied separately or simultaneously or in admixed condition to the main body of tobacco.

7. The method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein an essential oil or oils as a flavoring agent or agents, is or are added to the solution, slurry or colloidal dispersion before being applied to the main body of tobacco.

8. The method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the treated tobacco is subjected to a drying or moisture removing operation to form a gel-like coating of the blending or flavoring tobacco thereon.

9. The method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein a quantity of the blending or flavoring tobacco is subjected to a grinding operation to convert

the same into finely divided particles, all or a substantial proportion of which are of colloidal size, and the reduced tobacco is then intimately mixed with or dispersed
5 in water to form the solution, slurry or colloidal dispersion.

10 10. The method as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 8, wherein a quantity of blending or flavoring tobacco is subjected to a grinding operation in water until the tobacco is reduced to finely divided particles, all or a substantial proportion of which are of colloidal size, to form said solution, slurry or colloidal dispersion.

15 11. The method as claimed in Claims 9 and 10, wherein the tobacco or material is first ground in a dry state to particles of a certain size, and the reduced tobacco particles are then ground in water until
20 the desired finely divided or colloidal sized particles are obtained.

25 12. The method as claimed in Claim 9, 10, or 11, wherein the resulting solution, slurry, or colloidal dispersion is subjected to heat or to heat and pressure for a period of time sufficient to accelerate the hydration of substantially all of the tobacco in the water, before applying the same to the tobacco to be treated.

30 13. The method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the solution, slurry or dispersion is applied to the main body of tobacco in one or more applying operations, and the tobacco is
35 preferably subjected to a drying or moisture removing operation after each applying operation.

14. The method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the solution, slurry or dispersion is applied to the
40 tobacco by dipping.

15. The method as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 13, wherein the solution, slurry or dispersion is sprayed upon the
45 main body of tobacco.

16. A tobacco blending or flavoring coating composition consisting of a solution or sol containing finely divided or colloidal sized particles of a blending or
50 flavoring tobacco.

17. A tobacco coating composition as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the solution or sol contains particles of a plurality of different blending or flavoring tobaccos.

18. A tobacco coating composition as
55 claimed in Claim 16 or 17, wherein the solution or sol has been subjected to a heat treatment.

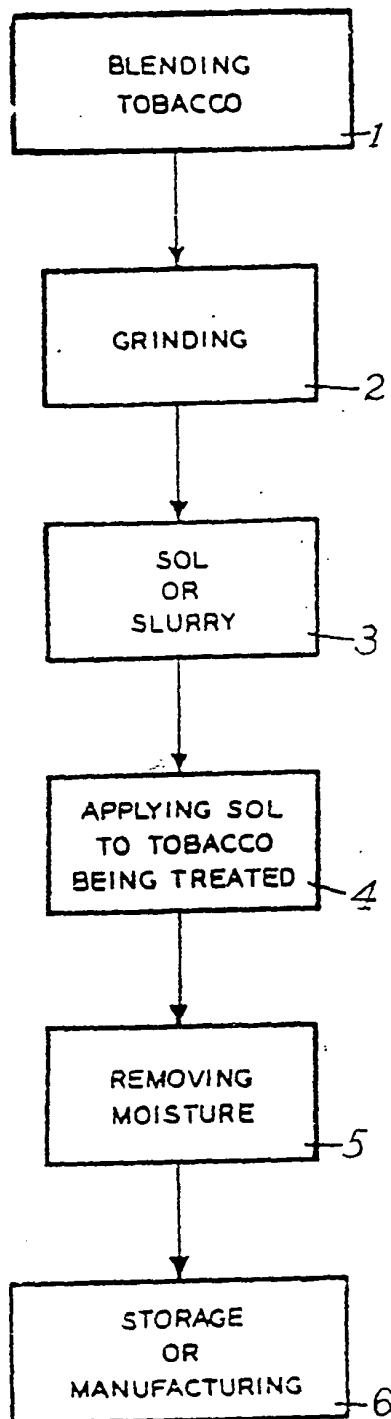
19. Blended or flavored tobacco, comprising a quantity of one or more kinds
60 of tobacco, in the form of whole leaves or large leaf portions, cut or broken up tobacco, or shredded tobacco, provided on one or more or all surfaces thereof with a coherent coating of finely divided or
65 colloiddally bound blending or flavoring tobacco.

20. The methods of preparing blended or flavored tobacco, and the blended or flavored tobacco produced thereby, sub-
70 stantially as hereinbefore described.

Dated this 12th day of July, 1943.

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FIG. 1



[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]

FIG. 2.

